

# Iowa Plan for Open Feedlots

## Purpose

To help open feedlots comply with federal and state laws that have been in place since the 1970s, but have not been actively enforced

## Three Parts

- voluntary registration,
- environmental priority assessment and
- compliance within two to five years

## Benefits of Registering

- no penalty from the DNR for not having a permit
- no routine inspections from DNR or EPA during 2001 for registered or permitted open feedlots (complaints will still be investigated)
- limited amnesty from monetary penalties for minor water quality violations, provided they are working to comply with the regulations.
- having the time to determine if a permit is needed
- having time to make changes in your operation to bring it into compliance (if needed), and
- possibly increased priority for cost-share funds if they become available

## Who Should Register

Open feedlots that need a permit

- >1,000 animal units or >1,000 beef cattle or >700 dairy cattle or > 2,500 swine (more than 55 lbs.)
- >301 to 1,000 animal units that
  - discharges directly to a water of the state, through a man-made drainage system, or
  - through a stream running through the lot

## The Process

1. You register
2. DNR does an in-house environmental assessment, using
  - information you provided, and
  - available soils and geographical information

3. DNR assigns a low, medium or high priority based on the feedlot's potential for causing water quality problems.
4. DNR field person will visit high priority lots first and work with the producer to determine actual site conditions, management practices and if a permit is needed.
5. High priority lots work towards compliance within two years.

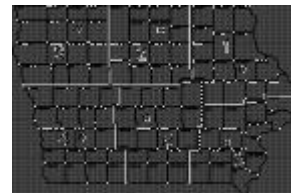
**Goal:** all lots within compliance within five years.

## Developed with input from

Conservation Districts of Iowa  
Iowa Beef Center  
Iowa Cattlemen's Association  
Iowa Department of Agriculture  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa State University Extension Service  
Izaak Walton League  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
US Environmental Protection Agency

## For More Information

- Check the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's Website at Iowa State University -- <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/>
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Website -- <http://www.state.ia.us/epd/>
- Your Local Extension office
- DNR Environmental Protection Offices



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